Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

SECRETUSNATO 5341

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: NOVEMBER 5 SPC DISCUSSION OF PRE-REDUCTION MEASURES
VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

SUMMARY: SPC DISCUSSION FURTHER UNDERLINED UK OPPOSITION TO PRE-REDUCTION STABILIZING MEASURES AND INCREASED PRESSURE ON FRG TO JUSTIFY THEM. FRG REP PREDICTED HE WOULD HAVE EXTENSIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BEFORE NOVEMBER 8 SPC MEETING. UK REP EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER FACT THAT AD HOC GROUP SPOKESMAN IN VIENNA HAD MENTIONED SPECIFIC PRE-REDUCTION MEASURES TO THE PRESS ON OCTOBER 31. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 4 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. UK REP (LOGAN) SAID THAT HE HAD DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING MEASURES LISTED IN PARA 23, C-M(73)83 AS PRE-REDUCTION STEPS PER SE, SINCE SUCH MEASURES WOULD HAVE INPLICATIONS FOR ENTIRE MBFR PROCESS AND ARE NOT READILY SEPARABLE FROM MEASURES SECRET

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TO ACCOMPANY OR FOLLOW REDUCTIONS. IN FACT, UK WANTED MEASURES TO APPLY THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS, IN ORDER TO PLACE AS MANY DURABLE CONSTRAINTS ON SOVIETS AS POSSIBLE. ITALIAN REP ACCEPTED ENTIRELY BRITISH POSITION ON

PRE-REDUCTION MEASURES AS OUTLINED IN LENGTHY UK STATEMENT AT OCTOBER 26 SPC MEETING (USNATO 5205).

- 2. IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN INQUIRY ABOUT FORM OF AGREEMENT FOR UK ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL THAT MBFR PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THEIR FORCES IN NGA WHILE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY, UK REP SAID THAT HE FAVORED A SIMPLE DECLARATION EARLY IN NEGOTIATIONS. UK WISHED TO AVOID SPENDING MUCH TIME NEGOTIATING A DETAILED DECLARATION.
- 3. SPC CHAIRMAN KASTL URGED COMMITTEE TO REACH DECISION BY NOVEMBER 8 MEETING ON ALLIANCE APPROACH TO PRE-REDUCTION MEASURES, SINCE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA WOULD SURELY BE FACING INQUIRES FROM THE OTHER SIDE IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. KASTL AND UK REP NOTED WITH SURPRISE REPORTS THAT AD HOC GROUP SPOKESMAN HAD MENTIONED SPECIFIC PRE-REDUCTION MEASURES TO THE PRESS.
- 4. COMMENT: MISSION RECOGNIZES THAT IN CONNECTION WITH ITS CURRENT REVIEW OF STABILIZING MEASURES (STATE 213250), WASH-INGTON MAY WISH TO EXAMINE MORE DETAILED GERMAN POSITION. WHICH FRG DEL EXPERTS TO CIRCULATE THIS WEEK, BEFORE PROVIDING UPDATED GUIDANCE ON PRE-REDUCTION MEASURES. IF POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON SPECIFIC UK PROPOSAL (PARA 12, USNATO 5205) FOR PRE-REDCTION DECLARATION ON NON-INCREASE OF FORCES, WHICH UK SUGGESTS IN LIEU OF MEASURES IN PARA 23. SEVERAL ALLIES ARE EAGER TO FIND WAYS OF ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH MBFR. AND WASHINGTON SHOULD DECIDE SOON WHETHER IT COULD AGREE TO JOIN IN PROPOSING SUCH A DECLARATION. MISSION IS CONCERNED THAT SUCH A MEASURE COULD BECOME A TIME-CONSUMING ROADBLOCK TO A REDUCTION AGREEMENT AND COULD HAVE SOME INHIBITING EFFECT ON FORCE IMPROVEMENTS. IT MIGHT, ALSO ENCOURAGE CERTAIN ALLIES TO CALL FOR PRE-REDUCTION INSPECTION MEASURES TO VERIFY WP FORCE LEVELS - PER-HAPS TOGETHER WITH DEMANDS FOR GREATER ACCESS TO INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH NATIONAL MEANS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS MEASURE WOULD SATISFY ALLIED DESIRE (USNATO 5180) TO HAVE SOME PRE-REDUCTION MEASURE TO SECRET

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TEST SOVIET INTENTIONS AND PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN MBFR FIRST PHASE. UK HAS ALSO ARGUED HERE THAT REACHING AGREEMENT TO SUCH A DECLARATION, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD NEED TO BE CAREFULLY WORDED, WOULD BE MUCH LESS COMPLICATED THAN REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE SPECIFIC MEASURES LISTED IN PARA 23. IF WASHINGTON DESIRES TO HAVE FULLER BACKGROUND PRIOR TO MAKING DECISION, WE COULD ASK UK DELEGATION HERE TO PROVIDE US PRIVATELY WITH FULLER DETAILS ON HOW THEY WOULD NEGOTIATE SUCH A DECLARATION AND, IF AVAILABLE, TO SHOW US AN ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT. END COMMENT.

SECRET

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